

In the Claims:

1-123. (Canceled)

✓ 4. ~~124~~. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 377)~~;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 377)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the nucleic acid sequence of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 376)~~;
- (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 376)~~; or
- (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

✓ 5. ~~125~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~⁴ comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 377)~~.

✓ 6. ~~126~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~⁴ comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 377)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

✓ 7. ~~129~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~⁴ comprising the nucleic acid sequence of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 376)~~.

✓ 8. ~~130~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~⁴ comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~(SEQ ID NO: 376)~~.

9. ~~131~~⁴. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~⁴ comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

132-134. (Canceled)

10. ~~135~~¹. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~¹ or ~~139~~¹.

11. ~~136~~¹⁰. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim ~~135~~¹⁰, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

12. ~~137~~¹⁰. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim ~~135~~¹⁰.

13. ~~138~~¹². (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim ~~137~~¹², wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

139. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;

wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

140. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim 139 having at least 85% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;

wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

✓ 1. ~~141~~. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~139~~¹ having at least 90% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;

wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

2. ~~142~~. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~139~~¹ having at least 95% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;

wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

3. ~~143~~. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~139~~¹ having at least 99% sequence identity to:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;

wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.